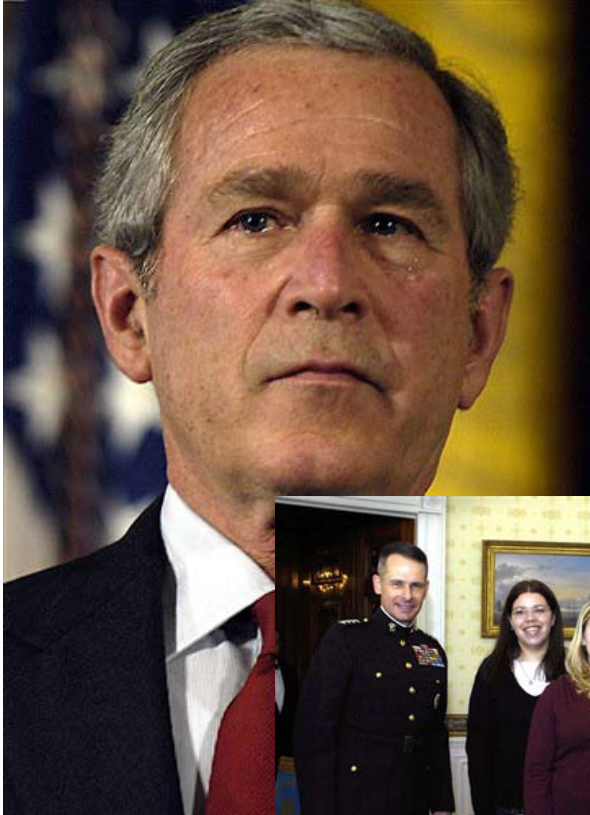


THE GUARDIAN

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Phone: (559) 675-7766 • Email: dblessing@madera-county.com



President George W. Bush fights back the tears during a Medal of Honor ceremony for U.S. Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham, at the White House, Jan. 11, 2007.



President George W. Bush speaks to the crowd during the Medal of Honor ceremony in the East Room of the White House, Jan. 11, 2007. U.S. Marine Cpl. Jason Dunham was posthumously honored for his actions in Iraq in 2004. Defense Dept. photo by William D. Moss all other by Cheire Thurlby.



U.S. Marine Gen. Peter Pace, left, takes a photo with the Dunham family prior to the start of a Medal of Honor ceremony



President George W. Bush speaks to the crowd during the Medal of Honor ceremony in the East Room.



Veterans Service Office

Madera Veterans Office
321 W. Yosemite Ave.
Madera Ca 93637
Suite 101

Hours

Mon., Through Fri. 8-5
Dennis Blessing, Service Officer
(559) 675-7766

Madera Transportation
(888) 826-2838 ext 6424
from Merced (**72 Hr. Notice**)
Oakhurst (559) 658-5399

Doolittle Raid on Japan

18 April 1942

18 April 1942

Raiding Force B-25s

A wreath commemorates the Doolittle Raiders who lost their lives in the line of duty in World War II. The Doolittle Raider reunion/memorial ceremony was held at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base Museum in Dayton, Ohio, April 18, 2006. Defense Dept. photo by William D. Moss



The planes were parked on USS Hornet's flight deck in the order they were to leave. There was no room to rearrange them, and their long, non-folding wings made it impossible to send them below. During the two week's outward passage, planes received regular maintenance and engine testing to ensure they would be ready. The leading bomber, piloted by Lieutenant Colonel Doolittle, had but a few hundred feet of deck run to reach flying speed, but every subsequent one had a little more. Each was helped off a Navy launching officer, who timed the start of each B-25's take-off roll to ensure that it reached the forward end of the flight deck as the ship pitched up in the heavy seas, thus giving extra lift at a critical instant.



Tung Sheen Lui, a Chinese civilian living in China during World War II who came to the aid of some of the Doolittle Raiders, attended the dedication ceremony, April 18, 2006. Defense Dept. photo by William D. Moss

Retired Sgt. David Thatcher (right) a Doolittle Raider, visits with Carroll V. Glines, author of the book, *The Doolittle Raid*, (left) at the dedication ceremony of the Doolittle Raider Memorial held at the National Museum of the U.S. Air Force, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton,



The sixteen bombers employed on the Doolittle Raid were all B-25B models, third production version of North American Aviation's B-25 "Mitchell" medium bomber design. Delivered in 1941, these aircraft were stripped of some of their defensive guns and given extra fuel tanks to extend their range. Two wooden dowels were placed in each plane's plastic tail cone, simulating extra machine guns that might hopefully persuade enemy fighters to keep their distance. Each B-25 carried four 500-pound bombs on the mission. One bomb was decorated with Japanese medals, donated by Navy Lieutenant Stephen Jurika, who had received them during pre-war naval attaché service and now wished to pointedly return them to a hostile government.





Standing (from left to right:) Lt. Tom Griffin, Lt. Col. Chase Nielson, Sgt. David Thatcher, Master Sgt. Ed Horton, Lt. Col. Bob Hite, Lt. Frank Appeler, Author Carroll V. Glens, Col. John Doolittle, Col. Bill Bower and Lt. Col. Dick Cole stand in front of the new Doolittle Raiders monument located in the Memorial Park of Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, April 18, 2006. Defense Dept. photo by William D. Moss

A monument dedicated to the famed Doolittle Raiders of World War II sits in Memorial Park at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, April, 18, 2006. Defense Dept. photo by William D. Moss

CONTINUED NEXT MONTH



The back of the monument dedicated to the famed Doolittle Raiders of World War II lists the flight crews, flight order, targets and final destinations. Defense Dept. photo by William D. Moss

NEW GOVERNMENT CENTER

IT'S DONE !





Veterans News

NEWS FROM THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

February 2, 2007

Re: Helping Veterans Live Quality Lives

Dear Commanders, Presidents, and Friends of Veterans:

Americans have proven time and time again they are the most generous people on earth. When others have been affected by disasters, war, and crisis, Americans have opened their hearts and wallets to help bring relief and peace of mind to those adversely affected. This generosity has also extended to our Nation's veterans, our heroes.

In 2005, Governor Schwarzenegger signed AB 357 by Assembly member Shirley Horton, which benefits the residents of California's veterans' homes by providing a mechanism for Californians to voluntarily donate via their state tax forms.

Funds donated this way go into the "Veterans Quality of Life Fund" which in turn distributes the proceeds to the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Fund at the state's three currently operating veterans homes. These funds cannot be used to cover the homes' overhead, but must be used for the direct benefit of the residents.

Donating to the Veterans Quality of Life Fund is easy. Taxpayers simply need to specify the amount they wish to donate on line 60 of their state 540 2EZ or 504A tax forms. It is that EZ!

Please remember those who sacrificed for our way of life this tax season. It is one EZ way to thank our veterans.

**Sincerely, /s/ Tom Johnson, FACHE
Secretary of Veterans Affairs**

FROM THE FRONT

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF
DEFENSE



ARMY GUNNER - A U.S. Army gunner from 2nd Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, pulls security during a patrol near kandari market in Baghdad, Iraq, Dec. 30, 2006. U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Tierney Nowland

HERO SHADOW BOXES



The Guardian

The Guardian



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February 1, 2007

TO: ALL VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS

FROM: THE CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR'S COMMITTEE ON
EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS
REGARDING EMPLOYMENT OF VETERANS WITH DISABILITIES

The California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is conducting public hearings to obtain information from veterans accessing services, and organizations providing services associated with the employment of veterans with disabilities.

The purpose of the public hearings is to obtain recommendations on better alignment of State provided employment services for veterans with disabilities.

To submit testimony, please email to Roni Armstrong at rarmstr2@edd.ca.gov or Joe Carleton at jcarleto@edd.ca.gov or by mail to:

California Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities
PO Box 826880, MIC 21
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

Testimony must be received by Friday, March 30, 2007

Click here for the Public Hearing Schedule and stimulus questions: <http://www.edd.ca.gov/gcepdevents.asp>

If you have questions regarding this letter, you may contact the staff for the Governor's Committee at (916) 654-8055, or TTY at (916) 654-9820.

The Employment Development Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require accommodations for their disabilities or have any questions please contact Joe Carleton at (800) 695-0350, or TTY at (916) 654-9820 **at least** seven (7) days prior to the public hearing date.



EMPLOYMENT of VETERANS with Disabilities PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities is conducting a series of public hearings to gather information on better alignment of State sponsored employment services for veterans. This is an opportunity to influence the State's public policy regarding better coordination of employment services for veterans with disabilities. The Governor's Committee will consider all comments in the development of recommendations to go forward to the Governor.

February 27, 2007, Los Angeles City Hall, 9:00 a.m. – Noon.
200 North Spring Street, Rm 350, Los Angeles, 90010

March 1, 2007, Vets Village of San Diego, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.
4141 Pacific Hwy, San Diego, 92110

March 22, 2007, Sacramento, CA, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Department of Health Services, 1500 Capital Ave,
Sacramento, 95814

In order to provide maximum participation, verbal testimony will be limited to five minutes per speaker. All speakers should supplement their presentations with written testimony. Individuals who are unable to attend the hearings may submit comments by e-mail to the Governor's Committee web site listed below. The Governor's Committee will accept written comment until

March 30, 2007. *For additional information go to the Governor's Committee web site at <http://www.edd.ca.gov/gcepdind.asp>*

The Employment Development Department is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Individuals who require accommodations for their disabilities or have any questions please contact Joe Carleton at (800) 695-0350, or TTY at (916) 654-9820 **at least** seven (7) days prior to the public hearing date.

THE GUARDIAN

SERVING MADERA COUNTY VETERANS



News You Can Use

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

VA Regional Office, Oakland

1-800-827-1000

VA Life Insurance Center

1-800-669-8477

VA Medical Center Toll Free (Fresno)

1-888-826-2838

Cal-Vet Home Loan Information, (Fresno)

559-440-5132

Patient Advocate (Fresno VA)**

Ext. 6970

Telephone Advice Nurse (Fresno VA)**

Ext. 6933

Outpatient Clinic – Merced/Atwater (Castle)

209-381-0105

Service Representative: (DAV, Fresno VA)**

Ext. 5642

Service Representative: (VFW, Fresno VA)**

Ext. 5647

Service Representative: (AMVETS, Fresno VA)**

Ext. 5816

Service Representative: (American Legion,
Fresno VA)**

Ext. 5648

**Fresno VA Pharmacy, (to order 14 days before
you run out call by touch tone phone)**

559-225-6100 Ext. 5333

CVSO Madera County (pager) D. Blessing

559-661-6895

Fresno Vet Center (Fresno)

559-487-5660

Transportation to VA Medical appointments

** Call VA Fresno toll free number first

1-888-826-2838 ext. 6424